

*Goshen, NY* - On Saturday, March 6th, U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-Dover) joined employment specialists and local employers to provide jobseekers with retraining, reeducation and employment resources. The two fairs, one in Orange County and one in Westchester, brought together career specialists from regional organizations that provide services ranging from career counseling to small business development. Participants presented job skill information, including green jobs training, and were available for one-on-one counseling.

Rep. Hall told participants, "I understand how difficult it is to be looking for a job, and how frustrating it is when you know you want to work hard, you know you're qualified, and you just can't find an opening. It's frustrating for you, and it's a terrible loss for our community. The fact is, we need you. Our economy needs you. The greatest asset the American economy has is the American worker. These fairs are designed to help Hudson Valley workers gain new skills and find good paying jobs."

Pat Courtney Strong, who was on hand to talk about green job training available through Mid Hudson Energy Smart and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, said, "NYSERDA is delighted to participate in Congressman John Hall's Jobs Fair because it gives us the chance to talk with New Yorkers about the many jobs that are coming online now in home energy efficiency and renewable energy installation. We also have opportunities coming up in renewable energy manufacturing. We're about to get a big boost through the Green Jobs Green New York Initiative which will roll out this summer. We're excited to speak with job seekers about that."

Stephen Knob, director of the Orange County Employment & Training Administration talked with attendees about the resources available to them to assist with their search. "All of the things offered here are important to create a diversified workforce. Giving people any information about available jobs or available trainings is a positive thing. We're focusing on upgrading peoples skills so they'll be well qualified for new jobs that are coming to the Hudson Valley."

Hall voted Thursday to pass the HIRE Act, which creates common sense tax breaks for small businesses. Included in the bill is Rep. Hall's provision for tax breaks, known as "bonus depreciation," for businesses that invest in new equipment. This was a topic of discussion at Hall's recent Small Business Roundtables and was unanimously supported by the local businesses that participated.

"This jobs bill creates real savings and incentives for Hudson Valley small businesses to hire new employees and to invest in new equipment," Rep. Hall said. "This is exactly what we need to kick-start our local economy. Small businesses are the engine of growth in our country, and these tax cuts give them just the break they need to begin to expand."